



Teaching was a challenge then

SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS. This is what it was like in the good old days. This photo, loaned by the Historical Society, is from an old glass negative and

the quality of the print is better than many using modern materials and techniques. This is of the Grass Lake School, near Thompson. The teacher is

Mary Larson, and it was her first teaching job. More on this in the Memories column.

The photo accompanying this week's column was sent to the Historical Society by Bernice Danielson, daughter of Mary Larson, the teacher in the picture. It was taken in 1907. The boy on the left is Reuben Larson, who now lives on Oak Street; the boy on the right is his brother Rudy. Both dressed up for the start of the school year.

The "truck" being driven by Reuben appears to be a side-loader, probably for hauling coal for the heater. The buildings at the rear were well-known for their basic utility and some are still in evidence around the countryside: one for boys and one for girls. We don't think either one was a sauna.

This must have been quite a challenge for a young teacher. She very likely boarded with a neighboring family, and in the winter had to get to school as best she could.

We wonder how many grades were taught the basics in this one-room school.